

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. Cancelled

2. (Currently Amended) A separator as claimed in claim ~~1~~  
4, further comprising a suction system situated in a position  
overlying the conveyor belt.

3. (Currently Amended) A separator as claimed in claim ~~1~~  
4, further comprising a compressed air diffuser pipe.

4. (New) A separator for shredded tobacco comprising  
a bottom,  
a discharge duct,  
a column at the bottom , the column having an upper mouth  
and a perforated plate inclined towards the discharge duct,  
an entry duct for the shredded tobacco  
a feed pipe for air propelling the shredded tobacco  
upwards,  
a mesh conveyor movable substantially transversely to the  
vertical axis of the column, wherein  
the upper mouth of the column facing the mesh conveyor,  
said conveyor halting the upward rise of the shredded tobacco and  
conveying the tobacco towards a member for removing and conveying  
the tobacco.